

Chapter 6



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Northern bobwhite

Consultation and Coordination with Others

- Public Involvement Summary
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Public Involvement Summary

<p>Planning Updates, Surveys, and other Newsletters</p>	
	<p>Effective conservation usually begins with effective community involvement. To ensure that our future management of the Refuge considers the issues, concerns, and opportunities expressed by the public, we used a variety of public involvement techniques in our planning process. What follows is the chronology of public outreach activities we conducted while preparing this document.</p>
September 2004–September 2005	Distributed 429 visitor surveys and 1,430 community surveys in cooperation with U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
June 2005	Distributed newsletter announcing planning efforts for habitat management and hunting, and other issues including wood duck boxes
September 2005	Distributed a news release about migratory bird management at the refuge
December 2006	Distributed our “Conservation Planning Update” newsletter
August 2007	Distributed an updated “Conservation Planning Update” newsletter and completion of Final Report for Visitor and Community Survey Results for PHNWR by USGS
May 2011	Distributed a news release about completing an environmental impact statement instead of the originally anticipated environmental assessment
Public Scoping Meetings—Meeting Our Refuge Neighbors	<p>July 13, 2005 (Town Meeting before public scoping meetings began) Number of non-FWS attendants: 130 Location: Milton, DE</p> <p>November 8, 2005 Number of non-FWS attendants: 110 (total attendance for all 3 meetings) Location: Milton, DE</p> <p>November 9, 2005 Number of non-FWS attendants: 110 (total attendance for all 3 meetings) Location: Dover, DE</p> <p>November 10, 2005 Number of non-FWS attendants: 110 (total attendance for all 3 meetings) Location: Lewes, DE</p>
Meetings with State Partners and Other Conservation Expert	<p>July 18-19, 2006 <i>Outreach activity:</i> Partners Workshop <i>Purpose:</i> Develop a vision statement and goals for PHNWR <i>Number of non-FWS attendants:</i> 14 <i>Audience:</i> Rob Gano, Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife; Bill McAvoy, Delaware Natural Heritage Program; Glenn Garner, Friends of PHNWR; Otis Clifton, local landowner & farmer; Bill Fintel, local citizen & birder; Glen Wells, refuge cooperative farmer; David Weber, Sussex Bird Club; Joe Farrell, University of Delaware Sea Grant Program; Jim White, Delaware Nature Society; Nick DiPasquale & Mark Martel, Delaware Audubon Society; Jay Walls, Delaware Bassmasters; Jeff Gordon, Delmarva Ornithological Society; Jamie West, refuge hunter; Bill Jones, Jonathan Schafler, Annabella Larsen, George O’Shea, Tom Bonetti, Marci Caplis (moderator), Al Rizzo, USFWS</p>

January 18, 2007

Outreach activity: Technical Workshop

Purpose: Share information and discuss the refuge's most important state and regional contributions to the conservation of federal trust resources within the framework provided by the refuge's establishment purposes, the National Wildlife Refuge System mission and its policies.

Number of non-FWS attendants: 10

Audience: Rob Gano & Bill Meredith, Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife; Bill McAvoy, Delaware Natural Heritage Program; Joe Farrell, University of Delaware Sea Grant Program; Nick DiPasquale, Delaware Audubon Society/Duffield Associates; Rachel Dawson, Ducks Unlimited; Jennifer Wheatley, Delaware Division of Soil and Water; Mark Nardi, US Geological Survey, MD-DE-DC; Mick McLaughlin, JCM Environmental Consultants; Cory Whaley, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension Service; Bill Jones, Jonathan Schafler, Annabella Larsen, George O'Shea, Tom Bonetti, Rick McCorkle, & Hal Laskowski, USFWS.

June 19-20, 2007

Outreach activity: Technical Workshop

Purpose: Identify priority resources of concern and develop draft biological objectives for PHNWR

Number of non-FWS attendants: 2

Audience: Rob Gano, Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife; Robert Coxe, Delaware Natural Heritage Program; Bill Jones, Jonathan Schafler, Annabella Larsen, George O'Shea, Rick McCorkle, Hal Laskowski, Jan Taylor, Terry Villanueva, Ray Brown, Steve Funderburk, Greg Breese, Susan Guiteras, & Oscar Reed, USFWS.

May 7, 2008

Outreach activity: Planning meeting

Purpose: Review background hunting information and prepare hunting objectives and strategies

Number of non-FWS attendants: 3

Audience: Rob Gano, Ken Reynolds, & Pat Emory, Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife; Bill Jones, Oscar Reed, Michael Stroeh, Tony Leger, Tom Bonetti, USFWS.

July 9, 2008

Outreach activity: Technical Workshop

Purpose: Develop draft public use objectives for PHNWR

Number of non-FWS attendants: 4

Audience: Rob Gano & Ken Reynolds (Wildlife), Craig Shirey (Fisheries), Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife; Kendall Summers, Delaware Division of Parks & Recreation; Bill Jones, Annabella Larsen, George O'Shea, Susan Guiteras, Tom Bonetti, Julie Study, Tina Watson, Michael Dixon, Michael Stroeh, & Oscar Reed, USFWS.

April 22, 2010

Outreach activity: Planning meeting

Purpose: Review internal draft CCP document and alternatives with Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife staff

Number of non-FWS attendants: 15

“Federal Register” Notice

We published our original Notice of Intent (NOI) in the “Federal Register” on October 17, 2005 stating we intended to prepare “a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) document for Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)”.

Based on the extent of public comments received, and subsequent developments since scoping, we subsequently determined that an EIS would be more appropriate than an EA to ensure that a full and fair discussion of all significant environmental impacts occurs, and to inform decision-makers and the public of the reasonable alternatives that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts and enhance the quality of the human environment. The Service published a second NOI in the “Federal Register” on May 9, 2011 to complete the EIS. Public comments were accepted through June 23, 2011. The input we obtained from our public meetings, newsletters and workshops has been used to prepare this draft CCP/EIS, which will be released for 60 days of public review and comment. During that period, we will hold an additional public meeting to give the public opportunity to comment. If you prefer to send your comments in writing, we invite you to mail them to the address provided:

Thomas Bonetti, Planning Team Leader
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 5
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, 01035-9589 Email: northeastplanning@fws.gov

List of Preparers

Core Planning Team

Thomas Bonetti, Senior Refuge Planner and Planning Team Leader

Affiliation: USFWS Region 5 Regional Office
Education: B.S. Biology, M.S. Recreation Administration
Experience: USFWS, Region 5 Refuge Planner, 1998-present
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1992-1998
California Department of Parks and Recreation, 1990-1992

Michael Stroeh, Project Leader

Affiliation: Coastal Delaware Refuge Complex
Bombay and Prime Hook NWRs
Education: B.S. and M.S. Biology
Experience: Managed natural resources and public uses on national wildlife refuges for over 20 years.
Contribution: Participated completely in the planning and writing of CCP.

Oscar Reed, Jr., Deputy Refuge Manager

Affiliation: Coastal Delaware Refuge Complex; Bombay Hook NWR
Education: B.S. Biology
Experience: Natural resource and public use management for 19 years
Contribution: Assisted with CCP

George F. O’Shea, Refuge Operations Specialist (Retired)

Affiliation: Prime Hook NWR
Education: B.S. in Biology and Wildlife Management – Humboldt State University, California
Experience: Refuge Management 38 years
Contribution: Assisted with CCP

Susan Giteras, Wildlife Biologist

Affiliation: Coastal Delaware Refuge Complex
Bombay and Prime Hook NWRs

Education: B.S. Biology, M.S. Wildlife Ecology

Experience: Wildlife Biologist, USFWS, 10 years

Contribution: Participated in the writing of CCP, prepared maps.

Annabella Larsen, Wildlife Biologist

Affiliation: Coastal Delaware National Wildlife Refuge Complex;
Prime Hook NWR

Education: B.S. in Chemistry – Rutgers University 1982; B.S. in Biology –
Salisbury State University 1986; B.S. Wildlife Management – Delaware State
University – 1993.

Experience: Wildlife Biologist, USFWS, 19 years

Research Biologist – University of Salisbury, Maryland 1986-1988

Research Biologist – Wildlife International, Maryland 1988-1990

Engineering Technician – 1980-1982 Exxon Corporation

Contribution: Helped write all Chapters of CCP, HMP, some
Compatibility Determinations

Daniel Stotts, Wildlife Biologist

Affiliation: Coastal Delaware Refuge Complex; Bombay and Prime Hook NWRs

Education: B.A. in Biology

Experience: Biological Tech., Biologist, R.O.S., & Deputy Manager from
1992-present

Contribution: Assisted with Chapters 2 & 4, HMP and Compatibility
Determinations

Bill J. Jones, Visitor Services Manager

Affiliation: Coastal Delaware Refuge Complex; Prime Hook NWR

Education: B.S. & M.S. Fisheries Science and Management

Experience: Visitor Services Manager Prime Hook NWR since 2000

Contribution: Wrote Visitor Services section of CCP and Compatibility
Determinations. Prepared public outreach material including website updates,
CCP newsletter articles, and database.

**Assistance from other
Service Personnel**

Louise Kotarba
Dale Hudson
Mike Higgins
Al Rizzo
Tina Watson
Laura Mitchell

Kate McManus
Jonathan Schafler
Brian Braodus
Virginia Rettig
Brittany Benson

**Assistance from Federal,
State, Local and other
Partners**

Delaware Bay Estuary Project
Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife
Delaware Division of Soil & Water
Delaware Natural Heritage Program

Delaware Division of Parks &
Recreation
U.S. Geological Survey
Joyce Lindsay
Betty Kirk